



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

General Permit No.: VAG40
Effective Date: August 2, 2016
Expiration Date: August 1, 2021

GENERAL PERMIT FOR DOMESTIC SEWAGE DISCHARGES OF
LESS THAN OR EQUAL TO 1,000 GALLONS PER DAY

AUTHORIZATION TO DISCHARGE UNDER THE VIRGINIA POLLUTANT DISCHARGE
ELIMINATION SYSTEM AND THE VIRGINIA STATE WATER CONTROL LAW

In compliance with the provisions of the Clean Water Act (33 USC § 1251 et seq.), as amended, and pursuant to the State Water Control Law and regulations adopted pursuant thereto, owners of treatment works with domestic sewage discharges of a design flow of less than or equal to 1,000 gallons per day on a monthly average are authorized to discharge to surface waters within the boundaries of the Commonwealth of Virginia, except those waters specifically named in board regulations that prohibit such discharges.

The authorized discharge shall be in accordance with the information submitted with the registration statement, this cover page, Part I-Effluent Limitations, Monitoring Requirements and Special Conditions, and Part II-Conditions Applicable to All VPDES Permits, as set forth herein.

EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS, MONITORING REQUIREMENTS AND SPECIAL CONDITIONS

A. Effluent limitations and monitoring requirements - receiving waters where the 7Q10 flows are less than 0.2 MGD.

1. During the period beginning with the permit's effective date and lasting until the permit's expiration date, the permittee is authorized to discharge from outfall number 001 to receiving waters where the 7Q10 flows are less than 0.2 MGD.

The discharge shall be limited and monitored by the permittee as specified below:

| EFFLUENT CHARACTERISTICS | DISCHARGE LIMITATIONS | | MONITORING REQUIREMENTS | |
|--|-------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|
| | Instantaneous Minimum | Instantaneous Maximum | Frequency | Sample Type |
| Flow (MGD) ⁽¹⁾ | NA | NL | 1/year | Estimate |
| BOD ₅ | NA | 30 mg/l | 1/year | Grab |
| Total Suspended Solids | NA | 30 mg/l | 1/year | Grab |
| Total Residual Chlorine ⁽²⁾ | | | | |
| After contact tank | 1.0 mg/l | NA | 1/year | Grab |
| Final effluent | NA | 0.016 mg/l ⁽⁶⁾ | 1/year | Grab |
| E. coli ⁽³⁾ | NA | 235 CFU/100 ml | 1/year | Grab |
| enterococci ⁽⁴⁾ | NA | 104 CFU/100 ml | 1/year | Grab |
| Fecal Coliform Bacteria ⁽⁵⁾ | NA | 200 CFU/100 ml | 1/year | Grab |
| pH (standard units) | 6.0 | 9.0 | 1/year | Grab |
| Dissolved Oxygen | 5.0 mg/l ⁽⁶⁾ | NA | 1/year | Grab |

NL = No Limitation, monitoring required NA = Not Applicable

⁽¹⁾The design flow of this treatment works is less than or equal to 1,000 gallons per day.

⁽²⁾Applies only when chlorine is used for disinfection and the discharge is into freshwater (see 9VAC25-260-140 C for the classes of waters and boundary designations).

⁽³⁾Applies only when methods other than chlorine are used for disinfection and the discharge is into freshwater (see 9VAC25-260-140 C for the classes of waters and boundary designations). When the treatment works is discharging, continuous disinfection shall be provided in order to maintain this effluent limit.

⁽⁴⁾Applies only when the discharge is into saltwater or the transition zone (see 9VAC25-260-140 C for the classes of waters and boundary designations). When the treatment works is discharging, continuous disinfection shall be provided in order to maintain this effluent limit.

⁽⁵⁾Applies only when the discharge is into shellfish waters (see 9VAC25-260-160 for the description of what are shellfish waters). When the treatment works is discharging, continuous disinfection shall be provided in order to maintain this effluent limit.

⁽⁶⁾Does not apply when the receiving stream is an ephemeral stream. "Ephemeral streams" are drainage ways, ditches, hollows, or swales that contain only (i) flowing water during or immediately following periods of rainfall or (ii) water supplied by the discharger. These waterways would normally have no active aquatic community.

2. All monitoring data required by Part I A 1 shall be maintained on site in accordance with Part II B. Monitoring results for treatment works serving buildings or dwellings other than individual single family dwellings shall be submitted to the department on a Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) no later than the 10th of September following the monitoring period. The monitoring period is September 1 through August 31. A copy of the maintenance log required by Part I D 2 b (4) shall also be submitted with the DMR. Monitoring results for treatment works serving individual single family dwellings are submitted to the Virginia Department of Health in accordance with 12VAC5-640.
3. The 30-day average percent removal for BOD₅ and total suspended solids shall not be less than 85%.

B. Effluent limitations and monitoring requirements - receiving waters where the 7Q10 flows are equal to or greater than 0.2 MGD.

1. During the period beginning with the permit's effective date and lasting until the permit's expiration date, the permittee is authorized to discharge from outfall number 001 to receiving waters where the 7Q10 flows are equal to or greater than 0.2 MGD.

The discharge shall be limited and monitored by the permittee as specified below:

| EFFLUENT CHARACTERISTICS | DISCHARGE LIMITATIONS | | MONITORING REQUIREMENTS | |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|-------------|
| | Instantaneous Minimum | Instantaneous Maximum | Frequency | Sample Type |
| Flow (MGD) ⁽¹⁾ | NA | NL | 1/year | Estimate |
| BOD ₅ | NA | 30 mg/l | 1/year | Grab |
| Total Suspended Solids | NA | 30 mg/l | 1/year | Grab |
| Total Residual Chlorine ⁽²⁾ | | | | |
| After contact tank | 1.0 mg/l | NA | 1/year | Grab |
| Final effluent | NA | 2.0 mg/l | 1/year | Grab |
| E. coli ⁽³⁾ | NA | 235 CFU/100 ml | 1/year | Grab |
| enterococci ⁽⁴⁾ | NA | 104 CFU/100 ml | 1/year | Grab |
| Fecal Coliform Bacteria ⁽⁵⁾ | NA | 200 CFU/100 ml | 1/year | Grab |
| pH (standard units) | 6.0 | 9.0 | 1/year | Grab |

NL = No Limitation, monitoring required NA = Not Applicable

⁽¹⁾The design flow of this treatment works is less than or equal to 1,000 gallons per day.

⁽²⁾Applies only when chlorine is used for disinfection and the discharge is into freshwater (see 9VAC25-260-140 C for the classes of waters and boundary designations).

⁽³⁾Applies only when methods other than chlorine are used for disinfection and the discharge is into freshwater (see 9VAC25-260-140 C for the classes of waters and boundary designations). When the treatment works is discharging, continuous disinfection shall be provided in order to maintain this effluent limit.

⁽⁴⁾Applies only when the discharge is into saltwater or the transition zone (see 9VAC25-260-140 C for the classes of waters and boundary designations). When the treatment works is discharging, continuous disinfection shall be provided in order to maintain this effluent limit.

⁽⁵⁾Applies only when the discharge is into shellfish waters (see 9VAC25-260-160 for the description of what are shellfish waters). When the treatment works is discharging, continuous disinfection shall be provided in order to maintain this effluent limit.

2. All monitoring data required by Part I B 1 shall be maintained on site in accordance with Part II B. Monitoring results for treatment works serving buildings or dwellings other than individual single family dwellings shall be submitted to the department on a Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) no later than the 10th of September following the monitoring period. The monitoring period is September 1 through August 31. A copy of the maintenance log required by Part I D 2 b (4) shall also be submitted with the DMR. Monitoring results for treatment works serving individual single family dwellings are submitted to the Virginia Department of Health in accordance with 12VAC5-640.
3. The 30-day average percent removal for BOD₅ and total suspended solids shall not be less than 85%.

C. Effluent limitations and monitoring requirements - discharges to receiving waters subject to the Policy for the Potomac River Embayments (9VAC25-415). **(This subsection intentionally omitted)**

D. SPECIAL CONDITIONS

1. There shall be no discharge of floating solids or visible foam in other than trace amounts.
2. Operation and maintenance
 - a. Treatment works serving individual single family dwellings. Operation and maintenance requirements for treatment works serving individual single family dwellings are specified in the Virginia Department of Health regulations at 12VAC5-640-500.
 - b. Treatment works serving buildings or dwellings other than individual single family dwellings.
 - (1) For existing treatment works, the permittee shall keep a maintenance contract in force during the permit term, unless an exception to the maintenance contract requirement has been requested and granted in accordance with Part I D 3. A copy of the maintenance contract, if applicable, shall be kept at the site of the treatment works and made available to DEQ for examination upon request.
 - (2) For proposed treatment works, the permittee shall submit a certification that the permittee has a valid maintenance contract to DEQ prior to operation of the treatment works, unless an exception to the maintenance contract requirement has been requested and granted in accordance with Part I D 3. A maintenance contract shall be kept in force during the permit term. A copy of the maintenance contract shall be kept at the site of the treatment works, and shall be made available to DEQ for examination upon request.
 - (3) At a minimum, the maintenance contract shall provide for the following:
 - (a) Performance of all testing required in accordance with either Part I A, Part I B, or Part I C, as appropriate, and periodic (at least annual) inspections of the treatment works. Note: Discharges from the treatment works should be sampled during normal discharging operations or normal discharging conditions (i.e., operations that are normal for that treatment works). The owner or maintenance provider should not force a discharge in order to collect a sample;
 - (b) A written notification to the owner within 24 hours whenever the contract provider becomes aware that maintenance or repair of the owner's treatment works is necessary. The owner is responsible for prompt maintenance and repair of the treatment works including all costs associated with the maintenance or repair. Immediately upon receipt of notice that repair or maintenance is required, the owner shall begin emergency pump and haul of all sewage generated from the building or dwelling or otherwise ensure that no discharge occurs if full and complete repairs cannot be accomplished within 48 hours;
 - (c) A log of the following items shall be maintained at the treatment works by the contract provider:
 - (i) Results of all tests and sampling. Note: If sampling is attempted, but no sample was taken or possible, the log shall show all sampling attempts and document and explain why no sample was taken or possible;
 - (ii) Alarm activation incidents;
 - (iii) Maintenance, corrective, or repair activities performed;
 - (iv) Recommended repair or replacement items; and
 - (v) Copies of all reports prepared by the contract provider.
 - (d) An inspection shall be conducted by the contract provider within 48 hours after notification by the owner that a problem may be occurring.
 - (4) The permittee shall keep a log of all maintenance performed on the treatment works including, but not limited to, the following:
 - (a) The date and amount of disinfection chemicals added to the chlorinator.
 - (b) If dechlorination is used, the date and amount of any dechlorination chemicals that are added.
 - (c) The date and time of equipment failure and the date and time the equipment was restored to service.
 - (d) The date and approximate volume of sludge removed.
 - (e) Dated receipts for chemicals purchased, equipment purchased, and maintenance performed.

3. Operation and maintenance plan. The owner of any treatment works serving a building or dwelling other than an individual single family dwelling may request an exception to the maintenance contract requirement by submitting an operation and maintenance plan to the board for review and approval. At a minimum, the operation and maintenance plan shall contain the following information:
- a. An up-to-date operation and maintenance manual for the treatment works;
 - b. A log of all maintenance performed on the treatment works including, but not limited to, the following:
 - (1) The date and amount of disinfection chemicals added to the chlorinator (if applicable).
 - (2) If dechlorination is used, the date and amount of any dechlorination chemicals that are added.
 - (3) The date and time of equipment failure and the date and time the equipment was restored to service.
 - (4) The date and approximate volume of sludge removed.
 - (5) Results of all tests and sampling. Note: If sampling is attempted, but no sample was taken or possible, the log shall show all sampling attempts and document and explain why no sample was taken or possible;
 - c. Dated receipts for chemicals purchased, equipment purchased, and maintenance performed; and
 - d. An effluent monitoring plan to conform with the requirements of Part I A, Part I B, or Part I C, as appropriate, including all sample collection, preservation, and analysis procedures. Note: Discharges from the treatment works should be sampled during normal discharging operations or normal discharging conditions (i.e., operations that are normal for that treatment works). The owner or maintenance provider should not force a discharge in order to collect a sample.
 - e. Should the permittee fail to implement the approved operation and maintenance plan, or if there are violations of effluent limitations, the board reserves the right to require the permittee to obtain a maintenance contract.
4. Compliance recordkeeping under Part I A, Part I B, and Part I C.
- a. The quantification levels (QL) shall be less than or equal to the following concentrations:

| Effluent Parameter | Quantification Level |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| BOD ₅ | 2 mg/l |
| cBOD ₅ | 2 mg/l |
| Ammonia as N | 0.20 mg/l |
| Total Phosphorus | 0.10 mg/l |
| TSS | 1.0 mg/l |
| Chlorine | 0.10 mg/l |

The QL is defined as the lowest concentration used to calibrate a measurement system in accordance with the procedures published for the test method.

- b. Recording results. Any concentration data below the QL used in the analysis shall be recorded as "<QL" if it is less than the QL in subdivision 4 a of this subsection. Otherwise the numerical value shall be recorded.
 - c. Monitoring results shall be recorded using the same number of significant digits as listed in the permit. Regardless of the rounding convention used by the permittee (e.g., 5 always rounding up or to the nearest even number), the permittee shall use the convention consistently, and shall ensure that consulting laboratories employed by the permittee use the same convention.
5. The discharges authorized by this permit shall be controlled as necessary to meet water quality standards.

CONDITIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL VPDES PERMITS

A. Monitoring

1. Samples and measurements taken as required by this permit shall be representative of the monitored activity.
2. Monitoring shall be conducted according to procedures approved under 40 CFR Part 136 or alternative methods approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, unless other procedures have been specified in this permit.
3. The permittee shall periodically calibrate and perform maintenance procedures on all monitoring and analytical instrumentation at intervals that will ensure accuracy of measurements.
4. Samples taken as required by this permit shall be analyzed in accordance with 1VAC30-45 (Certification for Noncommercial Environmental Laboratories) or 1VAC30-46 (Accreditation for Commercial Environmental Laboratories).

B. Records

1. Records of monitoring information shall include:
 - a. The date, exact place, and time of sampling or measurements;
 - b. The individual(s) who performed the sampling or measurements;
 - c. The date(s) and time(s) analyses were performed;
 - d. The individual(s) who performed the analyses;
 - e. The analytical techniques or methods used; and
 - f. The results of such analyses.
2. Except for records of monitoring information required by this permit related to the permittee's sewage sludge use and disposal activities, which shall be retained for a period of at least five years, the permittee shall retain records of all monitoring information, including all calibration and maintenance records and all original strip chart recordings for continuous monitoring instrumentation, copies of all reports required by this permit, and records of all data used to complete the registration statement for this permit, for a period of at least three years from the date of the sample, measurement, report or request for coverage. This period of retention shall be extended automatically during the course of any unresolved litigation regarding the regulated activity or regarding control standards applicable to the permittee, or as requested by the board.

C. Reporting Monitoring Results

Monitoring results under this permit are not required to be submitted to the department. However, should the board request that the permittee submit monitoring results, the following subsections would apply.

1. The permittee shall submit the results of the monitoring required by this permit not later than the 10th day of the month after monitoring takes place, unless another reporting schedule is specified elsewhere in this permit. Monitoring results shall be submitted to the department's regional office.
2. Monitoring results shall be reported on a Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) or on forms provided, approved or specified by the department.
3. If the permittee monitors any pollutant specifically addressed by this permit more frequently than required by this permit using test procedures approved under 40 CFR Part 136 or using other test procedures approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency or using procedures specified in this permit, the results of this monitoring shall be included in the calculation and reporting of the data submitted on the DMR or reporting form specified by the department.
4. Calculations for all limitations that require averaging of measurements shall utilize an arithmetic mean unless otherwise specified in this permit.

D. Duty to Provide Information

The permittee shall furnish to the department, within a reasonable time, any information that the board may request to determine whether cause exists for modifying, revoking and reissuing, or terminating coverage under this permit or to determine compliance with this permit. The board may require the permittee to furnish, upon request, such plans, specifications, and other pertinent information as may be necessary to determine the effect of the wastes from the discharge on the quality of state waters, or such other information as may be necessary to accomplish the purposes of the State Water Control Law. The permittee shall also furnish to the department, upon request, copies of records required to be kept by this permit.

E. Compliance Schedule Reports

Reports of compliance or noncompliance with, or any progress reports on, interim and final requirements contained in any compliance schedule of this permit shall be submitted no later than 14 days following each schedule date.

F. Unauthorized Discharges

Except in compliance with this permit, or another permit issued by the board, it shall be unlawful for any person to:

- a. Discharge into state waters sewage, industrial wastes, other wastes, or any noxious or deleterious substances; or
- b. Otherwise alter the physical, chemical or biological properties of such state waters and make them detrimental to the public health, to animal or aquatic life, to the use of such waters for domestic or industrial consumption, for recreation, or for other uses.

G. Reports of Unauthorized Discharges

Any permittee who discharges or causes or allows a discharge of sewage, industrial waste, other wastes or any noxious or deleterious substance into or upon state waters in violation of Part II F, or who discharges or causes or allows a discharge that may reasonably be expected to enter state waters in violation of Part II F, shall notify the department of the discharge immediately upon discovery of the discharge, but in no case later than 24 hours after said discovery. A written report of the unauthorized discharge shall be submitted to the department within five days of discovery of the discharge. The written report shall contain:

- a. A description of the nature and location of the discharge;
- b. The cause of the discharge;
3. The date on which the discharge occurred;
4. The length of time that the discharge continued;
5. The volume of the discharge;
6. If the discharge is continuing, how long it is expected to continue;
7. If the discharge is continuing, what the expected total volume of the discharge will be; and
8. Any steps planned or taken to reduce, eliminate and prevent a recurrence of the present discharge or any future discharges not authorized by this permit.

Discharges reportable to the department under the immediate reporting requirements of other regulations are exempted from this requirement.

H. Reports of Unusual or Extraordinary Discharges

If any unusual or extraordinary discharge including a bypass or upset should occur from a treatment works and the discharge enters or could be expected to enter state waters, the permittee shall promptly notify, in no case later than 24 hours, the department by telephone after the discovery of the discharge. This notification shall provide all available details of the incident, including any adverse effects on aquatic life and the known number of fish killed. The permittee shall reduce the report to writing and shall submit it to the department within five days of discovery of the discharge in accordance with Part II I 2. Unusual and extraordinary discharges include, but are not limited to, any discharge resulting from:

- a. Unusual spillage of materials resulting directly or indirectly from processing operations;
- b. Breakdown of processing or accessory equipment;
- c. Failure or taking out of service some or all of the treatment works; and
- d. Flooding or other acts of nature.

I. Reports of Noncompliance

The permittee shall report any noncompliance that may adversely affect state waters or may endanger public health.

1. An oral report shall be provided within 24 hours from the time the permittee becomes aware of the circumstances. The following shall be included as information that shall be reported within 24 hours under this paragraph:
 - a. Any unanticipated bypass; and
 - b. Any upset that causes a discharge to surface waters.
2. A written report shall be submitted within five days and shall contain:
 - a. A description of the noncompliance and its cause;
 - b. The period of noncompliance, including exact dates and times, and if the noncompliance has not been corrected, the anticipated time it is expected to continue; and
 - c. Steps taken or planned to reduce, eliminate, and prevent reoccurrence of the noncompliance.

The board may waive the written report on a case-by-case basis for reports of noncompliance under Part II I if the oral report has been received within 24 hours and no adverse impact on state waters has been reported.

3. The permittee shall report all instances of noncompliance not reported under Part II I 1 or 2, in writing, at the time the next monitoring reports are submitted. The reports shall contain the information listed in Part II I 2.

NOTE: The immediate (within 24 hours) reports required in Parts II G, H, and I may be made to the department's regional office. Reports may be made by telephone, FAX, or online at <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/Programs/PollutionResponsePreparedness/MakingaReport.aspx>. For reports outside normal working hours, a message may be left and this shall fulfill the immediate reporting requirement. For emergencies, the Virginia Department of Emergency Management maintains a 24-hour telephone service at 1-800-468-8892.

J. Notice of Planned Changes

1. The permittee shall give notice to the department as soon as possible of any planned physical alterations or additions to the permitted facility. Notice is required only when:
 - a. The permittee plans alteration or addition to any building, structure, facility, or installation from which there is or may be a discharge of pollutants, the construction of which commenced:
 - (1) After promulgation of standards of performance under § 306 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC § 1251 et seq.) that are applicable to such source; or
 - (2) After proposal of standards of performance in accordance with § 306 of the Clean Water Act that are applicable to such source, but only if the standards are promulgated in accordance with § 306 within 120 days of their proposal;
 - b. The alteration or addition could significantly change the nature or increase the quantity of pollutants discharged. This notification applies to pollutants that are subject neither to effluent limitations nor to notification requirements specified elsewhere in this permit; or
 - c. The alteration or addition results in a significant change in the permittee's sludge use or disposal practices, and such alteration, addition, or change may justify the application of permit conditions that are different from or absent in the existing permit, including notification of additional use or of disposal sites not reported during the permit application process or not reported pursuant to an approved land application plan.
2. The permittee shall give advance notice to the department of any planned changes in the permitted facility or activity that may result in noncompliance with permit requirements.

K. Signatory Requirements

1. Registration statement. All registration statements shall be signed as follows:
 - a. For a corporation: by a responsible corporate officer. For the purpose of this section, a responsible corporate officer means: (i) a president, secretary, treasurer, or vice-president of the corporation in charge of a principal business function, or any other person who performs similar policy-making or decision-making functions for the corporation, or (ii) the manager of one or more manufacturing, production, or operating facilities, provided the manager is authorized to make management decisions which govern the operation of the regulated facility including having the explicit or implicit duty of making major capital investment recommendations, and initiating and directing other comprehensive measures to assure long term environmental compliance with environmental laws and regulations; the manager can ensure that the necessary systems are established or other actions taken to gather complete and accurate information for permit registration requirements; and where authority to sign documents has been assigned or delegated to the manager in accordance with corporate procedures;
 - b. For a partnership or sole proprietorship: by a general partner or the proprietor, respectively; or
 - c. For a municipality, state, federal, or other public agency: by either a principal executive officer or ranking elected official. For purposes of this section, a principal executive officer of a public agency includes: (i) the chief executive officer of the agency or (ii) a senior executive officer having responsibility for the overall operations of a principal geographic unit of the agency.
2. Reports, etc. All reports required by permits and other information requested by the board shall be signed by a person described in Part II K 1 or by a duly authorized representative of that person. A person is a duly authorized representative only if:
 - a. The authorization is made in writing by a person described in Part II K 1;
 - b. The authorization specifies either an individual or a position having responsibility for the overall operation of the regulated facility or activity such as the position of plant manager, operator of a well or a well field, superintendent, position of equivalent responsibility, or an individual or position having overall responsibility for environmental matters for the company. A duly authorized representative may thus be either a named individual or any individual occupying a named position; and
 - c. The written authorization is submitted to the department.
3. Changes to authorization. If an authorization under Part II K 2 is no longer accurate because a different individual or position has responsibility for the overall operation of the facility, a new authorization satisfying the requirements of Part II K 2 shall be submitted to the department prior to or together with any reports or information to be signed by an authorized representative.
4. Certification. Any person signing a document under Part II K 1 or 2 shall make the following certification: "I certify under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system, or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations."

L. Duty to Comply

The permittee shall comply with all conditions of this permit. Any permit noncompliance constitutes a violation of the State Water Control Law and the Clean Water Act, except that noncompliance with certain provisions of this permit may constitute a violation of the State Water Control Law but not the Clean Water Act. Permit noncompliance is grounds for enforcement action; for permit termination, revocation and reissuance, or modification; or denial of a permit coverage renewal application.

The permittee shall comply with effluent standards or prohibitions established under § 307(a) of the Clean Water Act for toxic pollutants and with standards for sewage sludge use or disposal established under § 405(d) of the Clean Water Act within the time provided in the regulations that establish these standards or prohibitions or standards for sewage sludge use or disposal, even if this permit has not yet been modified to incorporate the requirement.

M. Duty to Reapply

1. If the permittee wishes to continue an activity regulated by this permit after the expiration date of this permit, and the permittee does not qualify for automatic permit coverage renewal, the permittee shall submit a new registration statement, or for an individual single family dwelling a combined application, at least 60 days before the expiration date of the existing permit, unless permission for a later date has been granted by the board. The board shall not grant permission for registration statements or combined applications to be submitted later than the expiration date of the existing permit.
2. A permittee qualifies for automatic permit coverage renewal and is not required to submit a registration statement, or for an individual single family dwelling a combined application, if:
 - a. The ownership of the treatment works has not changed since this general permit went into effect on August 2, 2016, or, if the ownership has changed, (i) a new registration statement or for an individual single family dwelling a combined application or (ii) a VPDES Change of Ownership form was submitted to the department by the new owner at the time of the title transfer;
 - b. There has been no change in the design or operation, or both, of the treatment works since this general permit went into effect on August 2, 2016;
 - c. For treatment works serving individual single family dwellings, the Virginia Department of Health does not object to the automatic permit coverage renewal for this treatment works based on system performance issues, enforcement issues, or other issues sufficient to the board. If the Virginia Department of Health objects to the automatic renewal for this treatment works, the permittee will be notified by the board in writing; and
 - d. For treatment works serving buildings or dwellings other than single family dwellings, the board has no objection to the automatic permit coverage renewal for this treatment works based on system performance issues, enforcement issues, or other issues sufficient to the board. If the board objects to the automatic renewal for this treatment works, the permittee will be notified by the board in writing.
3. Any permittee that does not qualify for automatic permit coverage renewal shall submit a new registration statement, or for an individual single family dwelling a combined application, in accordance with Part II M 1.

N. Effect of a Permit

This permit does not convey any property rights in either real or personal property or any exclusive privileges, nor does it authorize any injury to private property or invasion of personal rights, or any infringement of federal, state or local law or regulations.

O. State Law

Nothing in this permit shall be construed to preclude the institution of any legal action under, or relieve the permittee from any responsibilities, liabilities, or penalties established pursuant to, any other state law or regulation or under authority preserved by § 510 of the Clean Water Act. Except as provided in permit conditions on "bypassing" (Part II U) and "upset" (Part II V) nothing in this permit shall be construed to relieve the permittee from civil and criminal penalties for noncompliance.

P. Oil and Hazardous Substance Liability

Nothing in this permit shall be construed to preclude the institution of any legal action or relieve the permittee from any responsibilities, liabilities, or penalties to which the permittee is or may be subject under §§ 62.1-44.34:14 through 62.1-44.34:23 of the State Water Control Law.

Q. Proper Operation and Maintenance

The permittee shall at all times properly operate and maintain all facilities and systems of treatment and control (and related appurtenances) that are installed or used by the permittee to achieve compliance with the conditions of this permit. Proper operation and maintenance also include effective plant performance, adequate funding, adequate staffing, and adequate laboratory and process controls, including appropriate quality assurance procedures. This provision requires the operation of back-up or auxiliary facilities or similar systems that are installed by the permittee only when the operation is necessary to achieve compliance with the conditions of this permit.

R. Disposal of Solids or Sludges

Solids, sludges or other pollutants removed in the course of treatment or management of pollutants shall be disposed of in a manner so as to prevent any pollutant from such materials from entering state waters.

S. Duty to Mitigate

The permittee shall take all reasonable steps to minimize or prevent any discharge or sludge use or disposal in violation of this permit that has a reasonable likelihood of adversely affecting human health or the environment.

T. Need to Halt or Reduce Activity not a Defense

It shall not be a defense for a permittee in an enforcement action that it would have been necessary to halt or reduce the permitted activity in order to maintain compliance with the conditions of this permit.

U. Bypass

1. "Bypass" means the intentional diversion of waste streams from any portion of a treatment facility. The permittee may allow any bypass to occur that does not cause effluent limitations to be exceeded, but only if it also is for essential maintenance to ensure efficient operation. These bypasses are not subject to the provisions of Parts II U 2 and 3.
2. Notice.
 - a. Anticipated bypass. If the permittee knows in advance of the need for a bypass, prior notice shall be submitted, if possible, at least 10 days before the date of the bypass.
 - b. Unanticipated bypass. The permittee shall submit notice of an unanticipated bypass as required in Part II I.
3. Prohibition of bypass.
 - a. Bypass is prohibited, and the board may take enforcement action against a permittee for bypass, unless:
 - (1) Bypass was unavoidable to prevent loss of life, personal injury, or severe property damage;
 - (2) There were no feasible alternatives to the bypass, such as the use of auxiliary treatment facilities, retention of untreated wastes, or maintenance during normal periods of equipment downtime. This condition is not satisfied if adequate back-up equipment should have been installed in the exercise of reasonable engineering judgment to prevent a bypass that occurred during normal periods of equipment downtime or preventive maintenance; and
 - (3) The permittee submitted notices as required under Part II U 2.
 - b. The board may approve an anticipated bypass after considering its adverse effects if the board determines that it will meet the three conditions listed in Part II U 3 a.

V. Upset

1. An upset, defined in 9VAC25-31-10, constitutes an affirmative defense to an action brought for noncompliance with technology-based permit effluent limitations if the requirements of Part II V 2 are met. A determination made during administrative review of claims that noncompliance was caused by upset, and before an action for noncompliance, is not a final administrative action subject to judicial review.
2. A permittee who wishes to establish the affirmative defense of upset shall demonstrate through properly signed, contemporaneous operating logs, or other relevant evidence that:
 - a. An upset occurred and that the permittee can identify the cause(s) of the upset;
 - b. The permitted facility was at the time being properly operated;
 - c. The permittee submitted notice of the upset as required in Part II I; and
 - d. The permittee complied with any remedial measures required under Part II S.
3. In any enforcement proceeding the permittee seeking to establish the occurrence of an upset has the burden of proof.

W. Inspection and Entry

The permittee shall allow the director, or an authorized representative, upon presentation of credentials and other documents as may be required by law, to:

1. Enter upon the permittee's premises where a regulated facility or activity is located or conducted, or where records must be kept under the conditions of this permit;

2. Have access to and copy, at reasonable times, any records that must be kept under the conditions of this permit;
3. Inspect at reasonable times any facilities, equipment (including monitoring and control equipment), practices, or operations regulated or required under this permit; and
4. Sample or monitor at reasonable times, for the purposes of assuring permit compliance or as otherwise authorized by the Clean Water Act and the State Water Control Law, any substances or parameters at any location.

For purposes of this section, the time for inspection shall be deemed reasonable during regular business hours, and whenever the facility is discharging. Nothing contained herein shall make an inspection unreasonable during an emergency.

X. Permit Actions

Permits may be modified, revoked and reissued, or terminated for cause. The filing of a request by the permittee for a permit modification, revocation and reissuance, termination, or notification of planned changes or anticipated noncompliance does not stay any permit condition.

Y. Transfer of Permits

Permits are not transferable to any person except after notice to the department. Coverage under this permit may be automatically transferred to a new permittee if:

1. The current permittee notifies the department within 30 days of the transfer of the title to the facility or property, unless permission for a later date has been granted by the board;
2. The notice includes a written agreement between the existing and new permittees containing a specific date for transfer of permit responsibility, coverage, and liability between them; and
3. The board does not notify the existing permittee and the proposed new permittee of its intent to deny the new permittee coverage under the permit. If this notice is not received, the transfer is effective on the date specified in the agreement mentioned in Part II Y 2.

Z. Severability

The provisions of this permit are severable, and if any provision of this permit or the application of any provision of this permit to any circumstance is held invalid, the application of such provision to other circumstances, and the remainder of this permit, shall not be affected thereby.